United Nations A/70/181

General Assembly

Distr.: General
24 July 2015
English
Original: Arabic/English/Spanish

Seventieth session
Items 98 (b), (k) and (o) of the provisional agenda*
General and complete disarmament

Nuclear disarmament; follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons; and reducing nuclear danger

Report of the Secretary-General

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* A/70/150.

15-12473 (E) 240815

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I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to requests contained in General Assembly resolutions 69/40, 69/43 and 69/48.

2. In paragraph 5 of resolution 69/40, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to intensify efforts and support initiatives that would contribute towards the full implementation of the seven recommendations identified in the report of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters (A/56/400) that would significantly reduce the risk of nuclear war, and also to continue to encourage Member States to consider the convening of an international conference, as proposed in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, to identify ways of eliminating nuclear danger, and to report thereon to the Assembly at its seventieth session.

3. In paragraph 3 of resolution 69/43, the General Assembly requested all States to inform the Secretary-General of the efforts and measures they had taken with respect to the implementation of the resolution and nuclear disarmament and requested the Secretary-General to apprise the Assembly of that information at its seventieth session.

4. In paragraph 22 of resolution 69/48, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the resolution to the Assembly at its seventieth session.

II. Observations

5. Since the previous report (A/69/131), States have exerted various efforts to facilitate the implementation of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation agreements.

6. Pursuant to resolution 68/32, entitled "Follow-up to the 2013 high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament", the United Nations commemorated the first International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons on 26 September 2014 with the following events:

(a) In New York, the General Assembly convened an informal plenary meeting, organized by the Permanent Mission of Indonesia to the United Nations in its capacity as Chair of the Working Group on Disarmament of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, to commemorate the International Day. In a message delivered by the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, the Secretary-General called for nuclear disarmament to be revived as a top international priority;

(b) In Geneva, the Office for Disarmament Affairs and the Unfold Zero campaign co-organized an event to commemorate the International Day, which was co-sponsored by the Permanent Missions of Austria, Indonesia, Kazakhstan and New Zealand to the United Nations, the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean and 88 non-governmental organizations;

(c) The Group of Latin American and Caribbean States also organized an event in Vienna to mark the International Day. Separately, the Member States of the

Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean issued a declaration to welcome and join in the commemoration.

7. The Government of Austria hosted the third Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons, held in Vienna on 8 and 9 December 2014. A total of 158 States, various United Nations entities, the International Committee of the Red Cross and numerous non-governmental organizations attended the Conference to discuss the global and long-term consequences of any use of nuclear weapons. The Vienna Conference followed upon the first Conference, held in Oslo in March 2013, and the second Conference, held Nayarit, Mexico, in February 2014, which focused, respectively, on the immediate and long-term impacts of the use of nuclear weapons. In addition to the summary of the Chair of the Conference, Austria presented the Humanitarian Pledge, by which subscribing States would commit to work together to identify and pursue effective measures to fill the legal gap for the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons. As at 9 July 2015, a total of 112 States had formally endorsed or expressed their support for the Humanitarian Pledge.

8. The ninth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons was held from 27 April to 22 May 2015 in New York, with the Ambassador of Algeria, Taous Feroukhi of Algeria serving as President of the Conference. Throughout the negotiations, delegations were sharply divided on how to characterize the pace and implementation of disarmament obligations, as well as on next steps for the achievement and maintenance of a world free of nuclear weapons. Many States parties supported the establishment of benchmarks and timelines to move the disarmament agenda forward, while others opposed such deadlines for failing to take the security environment into account. Additionally, delegations were not in agreement over whether awareness of the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons would serve to increase the urgency, speed or approach of disarmament efforts. While many States parties considered that new information on the catastrophic humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons warranted the commencement of immediate negotiations on a legal instrument for the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons, other States parties continued to favour a step-by-step or "building-block" approach to nuclear disarmament. Despite extensive consultations, the Conference was unable to reach agreement on a substantive final document. In his statement on the outcome of the 2015 Review Conference, the Secretary-General expressed his disappointment at the inability of the States parties to reach consensus on a substantive outcome. The Secretary-General regretted, in particular, that States parties were unable to narrow their differences on the future of nuclear disarmament or to arrive at a new collective vision on how to achieve a zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. He appealed to all States to sustain the momentum they had built over the past five years, including new initiatives in the pursuit of nuclear disarmament and continuing efforts to strengthen nuclear non-proliferation. With respect to the Middle East, the Secretary-General will continue to stand ready to support efforts to promote and sustain the inclusive regional dialogue necessary to achieve that goal. He expressed the hope that the growing awareness of the devastating humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons would continue to compel urgent action for effective measures leading to the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons.

9. Since commencing its 2015 session, the Conference on Disarmament has remained unable to begin negotiations on the basis of an agreed programme of

work. On 5 June 2015, the Conference re-established an informal working group with a mandate to produce a programme of work. Substantive deliberations on the four core issues on the agenda have continued.

10. Amid setbacks in establishing new zones and in fostering greater cooperation between existing zones, the international community continued efforts to make progress towards the consolidation of existing nuclear-weapon-free zones as follows:

(a) The Governments of France and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland deposited instruments of ratification of the Protocol to the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia on 17 November 2014 and 30 January 2015, respectively;

(b) Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 69/66, the third Conference of States Parties and Signatories to Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and Mongolia was convened at Headquarters on 24 April 2015 under the presidency of The Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations Office at Vienna. Owing to lack of agreement over procedural matters, the Conference was unable to take up any item on its agenda, though it did engage in an informal exchange of views. The High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and a number of States delivered statements;

(c) As discussed further in the report of the Secretary-General pursuant to General Assembly resolution 69/29, the facilitator and convenors for the conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction continued their efforts aimed at bringing the States of the region together to discuss and reach agreement on the arrangements for the conference. The failure of delegations at the 2015 Review Conference to agree on a substantive outcome document underscored the lack of a collective vision on how to move the issue forward.

11. The nuclear-weapon States continued their efforts related to the implementation of commitments on nuclear disarmament, in particular through efforts aimed at promoting greater transparency through multilateral and unilateral means, as described below:

(a) The sixth conference of the nuclear-weapon States was held on 4 and 5 February 2015 in London, under the chairmanship of the United Kingdom. The meeting sought to build upon the 2009 London, 2011 Paris, 2012 Washington, 2013 Russian Federation and 2014 Beijing conferences. Reaffirming their commitment to achieving a world without nuclear weapons in accordance with the goals of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the nuclear-weapon States reflected on the contribution that this process has made in developing the mutual confidence and transparency that they considered essential to making progress towards multilateral nuclear disarmament. The nuclear-weapon States noted the value of having an established dialogue, welcomed how each conference had built on the success of the preceding ones and underscored the achievement of consensus on a common reporting framework and the Glossary of Key Nuclear Terms, which had contributed to the implementation of the action plan of the 2010 Review Conference;

(b) The Russian Federation and the United States of America continued to work towards the full implementation of the Treaty on Measures for the Further

Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms. As at 1 July 2015, according to the data provided by the parties on their aggregate holdings of strategic offensive arms, the Russian Federation possessed 515 deployed intercontinental ballistic missiles, submarine-launched ballistic missiles and heavy bombers and 1,582 warheads on those systems; the United States possessed 785 deployed intercontinental ballistic missiles, submarine-launched ballistic missiles and heavy bombers and 1,597 warheads on those systems.

12. Other efforts undertaken aimed in various ways at facilitating the nuclear disarmament process included the following:

(a) On 26 September 2014, foreign ministers and other high-level representatives adopted a joint ministerial statement at the seventh Joint Ministerial Meeting on the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, held in New York. The ministers urged "all States that have not done so to sign and ratify the Treaty, in particular the remaining eight Annex 2 States". The statement further acknowledged the role of the Group of Eminent Persons in assisting in the entry-into-force process and highlighted the importance of the on-site inspection simulation, the 2014 integrated field exercise, held in November 2014 in Jordan;

(b) On 10 September 2014, the President of the General Assembly convened an informal meeting of the Assembly to mark the observance of the International Day against Nuclear Tests. The meeting was organized in cooperation with the Permanent Mission of the Kazakhstan to the United Nations. The opening ceremony, in which the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the First Deputy of the Governor of eastern Kazakhstan (Semipalatinsk region), Yermek Kosherbayev, delivered statements, was followed by a high-level panel covering some key issues, including necessary steps for further progress on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, confidence-building and other relevant issues;

(c) In its resolution 67/53, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to establish a group of governmental experts to convene in 2014 and 2015 in order to develop recommendations on possible aspects that could contribute to, but not negotiate, a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. The Group, chaired by the Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations Office at Geneva, concluded its work in May 2015. In its consensus report, the Group reaffirmed that a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices should be legally binding, non-discriminatory, multilateral, and internationally and effectively verifiable, and that document CD/1299 and the mandate contained therein remains the most suitable basis on which future negotiations can commence without further delay in the Conference on Disarmament and, as noted in that report, allows negotiators to raise for consideration all aspects of a treaty, including its scope. The Group agreed that such a treaty could contribute practically to achieving a world without nuclear weapons, to non-proliferation in all its aspects and, more broadly, to enhancing global security. The report identified areas of convergence and divergence on key aspects of a treaty, including those on which a spectrum of views may exist and on which further technical and/or scientific work can be pursued that may assist negotiators.

13. Despite progress in implementing nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation agreements and pursuing new initiatives to support these goals, impediments and

growing frustration with what many States view as the slow pace of progress remain. While efforts to reduce existing stockpiles are welcome, it is a matter of concern that the total estimated number of nuclear weapons, both deployed and non-deployed, still amounts to several thousands. Moreover, States continue to rely on nuclear weapons in defence and security policies and undertake modernization programmes of their weapons, delivery systems and related infrastructure.

14. While States continue to identify ways of intensifying their efforts to move forward the objective of nuclear disarmament, such as the international conferences convened to examine the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons, there remains deep frustration among States regarding the lack of demonstrable progress on nuclear disarmament.

15. The Secretary-General and the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs have continued their efforts to promote nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. On 7 July 2015, the acting High Representative delivered a statement at the plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament, stating that the regrettable outcome of the 2015 Review Conference underscores more than ever the need for a functioning multilateral dialogue on the key issues of disarmament and non-proliferation. He noted that the onus is now squarely on the Conference on Disarmament, as the world's sole disarmament negotiating body, to bridge the divide between States and to get back on the road towards the elimination of nuclear weapons.

III. Information received from Governments

Cuba

[Original: Spanish]
[26 May 2015]

As long as nuclear weapons exist, there is a danger that they might be used. The human race and our entire ecosystem remain at risk of disappearing, given the existence and potential use of over 16,000 ever more powerful nuclear weapons.

Cuba considers the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons to be a violation of the Charter of the United Nations and a crime against humanity, constituting a violation of both international law and international humanitarian law.

In the nearly 20 years since the International Court of Justice declared the use of nuclear weapons illegal in its advisory opinion of 8 July 1996 on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons, little progress has been made towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

It is a matter of deep concern that nuclear deterrence continues to be a core part of the military defence and security doctrines of some States, including the potential use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States in response to attacks using non-nuclear weapons. In addition, the deployment of nuclear weapons by nuclear-weapon States in the territory of non-nuclear-weapon States is a concern, since, in practice, this means there are many more "possessor States".

We recall that the International Court of Justice, in its advisory opinion, unanimously called for the start of negotiations to eliminate nuclear weapons and, in accordance with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, nuclear-

weapon States have a legal obligation not only to pursue, but also to bring to a conclusion, negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament under a strict and effective international verification system.

We are convinced that the prohibition and total elimination of nuclear weapons are the only absolute guarantees against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. Cuba deeply regrets the failure on the part of the nuclear-weapon States to fulfil their unequivocal undertaking to totally eliminate their nuclear arsenals with a view to achieving nuclear disarmament. We strongly condemn the enhancement of existing nuclear weapons and the development of new types of nuclear weapons, which is inconsistent with the obligation to adopt effective measures towards nuclear disarmament.

El Salvador

[Original: Spanish]
[13 April 2015]

The physical inventory of the Armed Forces of El Salvador does not include nuclear weapons, and the initiatives taken to counter their use include the ratification of the following instruments:

- Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
- Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco)
- Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and its amendments

India

[Original: English]
[26 May 2015]

India was a co-sponsor of General Assembly resolution 69/43.

India's support for the existence of an obligation to pursue in good faith and to conclude nuclear disarmament negotiations is not based on the provisions of any particular legal instrument but is a logical extension of India's consistent political support for nuclear disarmament. India is convinced that the goal of nuclear disarmament can be achieved through a step-by-step process underwritten by a universal commitment and an agreed multilateral framework that is global and non-discriminatory. There is a need for a meaningful dialogue among all States possessing nuclear weapons to build trust and confidence and to reduce the salience of nuclear weapons in international affairs and security doctrines.

India's working paper (CD/1816) enumerated specific steps, including reaffirmation of the unequivocal commitment of all nuclear- weapon States to the goal of complete elimination of nuclear weapons; reduction of the salience of nuclear weapons in security doctrines; measures by nuclear-weapon States to reduce nuclear danger; negotiation of a global agreement among nuclear-weapon States on "no-first-use" of nuclear weapons; negotiation of a universal and legally-binding agreement on non-use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States;

negotiation of a convention on the complete prohibition of the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons; and negotiation of a nuclear weapons convention on the prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of nuclear weapons and on their destruction, leading to the global, non-discriminatory and verifiable elimination of nuclear weapons within a specified timeframe.

India considers the Conference on Disarmament as the appropriate forum for the commencement of negotiations on nuclear disarmament through the establishment of a subsidiary body with a mandate agreed by consensus as part of a comprehensive and balanced programme of work.

Lebanon

[Original: Arabic]
[9 April 2015]

Lebanon wishes to reiterate the following points.

Lebanon does not possess or produce weapons of mass destruction. It is committed to the relevant United Nations resolutions and opposes the legality of the threat or use of such weapons.

Lebanon welcomes and supports all initiatives aimed at bringing about general and complete disarmament, especially in the Middle East, and emphasizes that the region should be free of weapons of mass destruction. It is concerned, however, at the failure of Israel to comply with international law. Israel maintains a nuclear arsenal that constitutes a constant threat to all the States of the region and, consequently, to international peace and security.

It is essential for the Arab States to continue to call for the establishment of a region free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, because that is the only available option for coping with the dangers which the nuclear armaments of Israel and its other weapons of mass destruction represent for international peace and Arab national security.

The international community should continue to demand that all States in the region, including Israel, sign treaties on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and nuclear weapons.

It is essential to unify the Arab position, step up the role of the League of Arab States and take action to acquire the scientific knowledge and secure the equipment required to protect against weapons of mass destruction. It is also vital to continue the efforts to emphasize that Israel is a State which is not a party to the international conventions.

Lebanon calls for the introduction and development of the use of peaceful nuclear technologies in all fields that serve sustainable development and urges that the various needs of the Arab States be taken into account.

Mauritius

[Original: English]
[3 June 2015]

Mauritius is a small island country. It has never advocated the development of weapons of mass destruction, which include nuclear and biological weapons. It has always supported the initiatives of the United Nations and all Member States without nuclear weapons in this direction. No country in the world should be allowed to develop, produce, test and stockpile weapons of mass destruction.

The Republic of Mauritius, being a signatory to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons since 1969, is committed to preventing the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology, promoting cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and furthering the goal of achieving general and complete nuclear disarmament.

The Government of Mauritius has also signed and ratified the African Nuclear Weapon Free Zone Treaty, which shows our resolve to support and propagate nuclear disarmament.

The Republic of Mauritius is an active member of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, although there is no nuclear weapon or installation on its territory.

Mauritius does not have any legislation pertaining specifically to nuclear weapons. However, in order to ensure the safety and security of its territory, the Government of Mauritius has enacted the following legislation:

- Dangerous Chemical Control Act 2001
- Prevention of Terrorism Act 2002
- Chemical Weapons Convention Act 2003
- Anti-Personnel Mines (Prohibition) Act 2001

Mauritius should therefore, continue to support the efforts of the United Nations to eliminate such weapons of mass destruction.

Mexico

[Original: Spanish]
[28 April 2015]

Mexico participates actively and decisively in the various multilateral and regional forums that deal with the issue of nuclear disarmament. During the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, Mexico, both in its national capacity and together with other States, submitted draft resolutions in the First Committee on the following topics related to nuclear disarmament:

- A United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education
- The United Nations Disarmament Information Programme
- Moving toward a nuclear-weapon-free world by accelerating the implementation of nuclear disarmament commitments
- Taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations

Together with like-minded countries, Mexico promotes the Humanitarian Initiative, which seeks a new, humanitarian approach to the debate on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. Mexico has been a party to the collective statements made on the issue since 2012 and, in 2014, it hosted the second Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons in Nayarit. It also participated in the Vienna Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons, which resulted in Austria's pledge to call on States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to reaffirm their commitment to the Treaty and to call on all States to work to reduce the risks relating to nuclear weapons.

At the third Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), held in Costa Rica in January 2015, the 33 CELAC members reiterated in a special declaration their commitment to promoting complete and verifiable nuclear disarmament and supported the commitments made by Austria.

In addition, Mexico presided over the Conference on Disarmament from 20 January to 15 February 2015. It submitted a draft programme of work, embodying a negotiating mandate on all agenda items, and three draft decisions on the participation of civil society organizations, the working methods of the Conference and the expansion of its membership. None was adopted.

Mexico also actively participated in the sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference, which was held in New York from 27 April to 22 May 2015, and has promoted the idea that humanitarian concerns should constitute the basis of all disarmament activities.

Portugal

[Original: English]
[13 April 2015]

Portugal makes efforts to promote disarmament and non-proliferation of all kinds of weapons of mass destruction and, in this context, is part of several of the major international initiatives that promote disarmament and non-proliferation. The issue of nuclear weapons of mass destruction is one that raises major concerns for Portugal, and we promote an active multilateral effort in the long view of nuclear disarmament and nuclear safety. Our participation in the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, the Convention on Nuclear Safety, the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and its amendments, the Missile Technology Control Regime, the Australia Group and the Nuclear Suppliers Group, stands as a testimony to the commitment of Portugal to this endeavour and to the obligations of article VI.

Having in mind the previous statements, and recalling the commitments by Portugal to all its international partners, in terms of the follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons, Portugal notes that the principles established in that document are well integrated into the Portuguese doctrine regarding nuclear issues.

Portugal is of the view that a convention banning nuclear weapons could ultimately be pursued as long as negotiations start on a treaty banning the production of fissile materials for nuclear weapons or other nuclear devices, on the basis of CD/1299 and the mandate contained therein.

Qatar

[Original: Arabic]
[18 June 2015]

Qatar believes that the threat or use of nuclear weapons is contrary to current international law on armed conflicts and, in particular, to the principles and rules of international humanitarian law.

Qatar is firmly convinced that only the total elimination of nuclear weapons can provide a guarantee against the use of such weapons. It therefore stresses the importance of the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice, which unanimously found that there exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects, under strict and effective international control.

Qatar believes that action must be taken to accelerate implementation of the 13 practical steps contained in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference and the 22 action items contained in the Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference, including the establishment in the Conference on Disarmament of a committee with a mandate to deal with nuclear disarmament with a view to identifying the measures required to eliminate nuclear weapons completely.

Qatar is a non-nuclear-weapon State that neither possesses such weapons nor has the means to deliver them. It has no ambition and does not intend to acquire nuclear weapons or develop nuclear-weapons-related programmes, nor does it provide any scientific, technical or material assistance to any party endeavouring to acquire or develop such weapons. Qatar also does not allow any nuclear-weapon-related activities to take place in its territory.

Owing to its firm conviction that nuclear energy should be used for peaceful purposes and not employed for military purposes, Qatar acceded to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons on 3 April 1989, and signed a comprehensive safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency on 19 January 2009. It also signed the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty on 24 September 1996 and then ratified it on 3 March 1997.

Qatar took part in the first conference on the humanitarian consequences that would result from a nuclear weapon detonation, held in Oslo in 2013, the second such conference, held in Mexico in February 2014, and the third such conference, held in Vienna in December 2014. It did so because it believes that humanity must become aware of the dangers posed by nuclear weapons. That realization must have a tangible effect on the work that is needed in order to spare humankind from the scourge of nuclear weapons, with the ultimate goal of achieving a world free of such weapons.

Sudan

[Original: Arabic]
[18 June 2015]

The Sudan supports the decision of the International Court of Justice in its advisory opinion of 8 July 1996 on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons. It draws attention to the unique characteristics of those weapons, in particular their uncontainable destructive power. The radiation released by a nuclear explosion can affect health, agriculture, natural resources and population over a vast area. Furthermore, the use of nuclear weapons would pose a serious threat to future generations. The Sudan upholds the cardinal principles constituting the fabric of humanitarian law — several of them addressed in the advisory opinion — namely, the principle of distinction, the prohibition of the use of indiscriminate weapons, the prohibition against causing unnecessary suffering to combatants, and the fact that States do not have unlimited choice of means in the weapons they use. Based on the Court's opinion, it appears that the use of such weapons and respect for these requirements can be reconciled only with great difficulty.

As a country free of nuclear weapons, the Sudan does not possess such weapons or their means of delivery. It has not dealt with nuclear weapons directly or indirectly and has no intention or ambition to possess or develop any programmes related to such weapons. It does not provide any scientific, technical or material assistance in that connection to any entity, nor does it allow any activities related to nuclear weapons to take place on its territory.

The Sudan supports regional and international efforts to prohibit and eliminate nuclear weapons and believes that the only guarantee that such weapons will not be used is their complete elimination. The Sudan has acceded to several instruments on the prohibition and prevention of nuclear proliferation. It continues to call upon all parties to participate in the multilateral negotiations leading to a comprehensive and non-discriminatory convention to address the issue of nuclear weapons.